

News From Southern Shores Town Hall

Wednesday, April 19, 2006

Southern Shores Vegetation Advisory Board Public Input Meeting

The Town of Southern Shores Vegetation Advisory Board (VAB) will conduct a public input meeting on April 26, 2006 at 7:00 pm in the Pitts Center. The proposed *Vegetation Management Plan* for the Town will be discussed. The goal of the *Vegetation Management Plan* is to provide comprehensive and consistent vegetation management utilizing protective and control methods. The VAB declared: "Increasing and accelerating loss of native vegetation is altering the character and environmental quality of our Town." The VAB originated from a petition by residents who were alarmed over clear-cutting. A subsequent survey by the Elizabeth City State University confirmed the fact of increased loss of vegetation, and stated that "if the trend is not reversed, the result will be a grossly degraded natural environment." Currently, the VAB participates in inspections to review lot disturbance permits and recommends that such inspections be conducted with the assistance of vegetation maps or aerial photos.

The *Vegetation Management Plan* describes the specific vegetation characteristics of the Town's five vegetative zones, each of which has its own special environmental qualities and endangerments. The report identifies the following problems:

- **Increasing** clear-cutting and land-scraping, storm water runoff, planting of invasive plants, maintenance costs, water pollution from lawn chemicals and wind/water erosion.
- **Decreasing** protection from weather events, natural windbreaks, privacy, property values, animal habitat, quality and native plant diversity.

Among the objectives of the *Vegetation Management Plan* are: development of controls for effective vegetation management, integration of vegetation and storm water management and increase the use of native plants for landscaping. In order to achieve these objectives the VAB recommends a ban of clear-cutting and land-scraping, restriction of vegetation disturbance during construction, conservation of beach grasses and thickets and re-vegetation of Town properties with native plants. The Board also emphasizes the need for an aggressive communication program so that the residents can become fully informed about the unique environment of the Town. You can view the [summary](#) and the draft [plan](#) on the Town website.

Dates To Remember:

- [Spring Cleanup](#), Saturday, April 22, 2006
- Town Council Meeting, Tuesday, April 25, 2006, 8AM, Pitts Center
- [Large Item](#), Tuesday, April 25, 2006
- Vegetation Advisory Board, Public Input Meeting, Wednesday, April 26, 2006, 7PM, Pitts Center

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For more information, contact the Southern Shores Town Hall, 252-261-2394, 252-255-0876 (fax), info@southernshores-nc.gov , www.southernshores-nc.gov .

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